

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1067

By Hackworth

A RESOLUTION to honor Jill Prudden on the occasion of her retirement as the head coach of the Oak Ridge High School Lady Wildcats basketball team.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those dedicated Tennesseans whose chosen vocations have been to coach high school athletic teams and to mold the characters of young women through the discipline of organized sports; and

WHEREAS, one such remarkable person is Oak Ridge High School's girls' basketball head coach Jill Prudden, who has amassed such an illustrious record in both regular and postseason play over her thirty-one year career that it places her among the top high school basketball coaches in American history; and

WHEREAS, named head coach at Oak Ridge High School in 1978, Jill Prudden's tremendous success has included three state championships, twenty-seven district championships, twenty-one regional championships, and twenty-one sub-state championships; and

WHEREAS, under Coach Prudden's guidance, the Oak Ridge Lady Wildcats have, since 1980, never won fewer than twenty games each season and her teams have compiled an astonishing seventeen thirty-win seasons during her tenure; and

WHEREAS, the winningest female coach in high school athletics in the State of Tennessee, Coach Prudden picked up her 900th career win this past season – a truly remarkable feat; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Coach Jill Prudden has been inducted into the Oak Ridge and Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame, won numerous "Coach of the Year" honors, and published her first book, "*Coaching Girls Basketball Successfully*"; and

WHEREAS, serving as a testament to her impressive abilities both as a coach and a mentor, Jill Prudden has coached numerous talented young ladies who continued their basketball careers both in college and professionally; and

WHEREAS, two such talented former Lady Wildcats are Olympian Jennifer Azzi, who was the Naismith and Wade trophy winner at Stanford University, where she won a national championship before embarking upon a very successful professional basketball career, and former University of Tennessee Lady Vol Nikki Caldwell, who won national championships at Tennessee as both a player and a coach and now is the head coach at UCLA; and

WHEREAS, Coach Jill Prudden epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; she has served with great diligence and dedication, positively influencing the lives of countless young people with her constant display of character and integrity; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Coach Prudden for her many years of excellence at Oak Ridge High School and her contributions to high school basketball in Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Jill Prudden for her meritorious service as a coach and mentor to Tennessee's youth, recognize her for her illustrious coaching career at Oak Ridge High School, and wish her every happiness and success in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.